

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4580

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV EC

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT COMMENTS ON CIA AND AGEE
ALLEGATIONS

1. REAR ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA, MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, IN
A WIDE-RANGING PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 21, COMMENTED ON
THE ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING CIA ACTIVITY IN ECUADOR CONTAINED
IN THE PHILLIP AGEE BOOK.

2. ACCORDING TO REPORT CONTAINED IN QUITO'S EL COMERCIO
FEB. 22, POVEDA SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALERT AND
VIGILANT TO UNCOVER ANY ORGANIZATION THAT AFFECTS THE
SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS HOW
TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID THAT
EXPLANATIONS ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THOSE PEOPLE ALLEGED
TO HAVE BEEN CIA AGENTS MUST BE MADE BY THOSE SAME PEOPLE
ACCORDING TO THEIR CONSCIENCES AS CITIZENS AND ECUADOREANS.

3. HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL FIND OUT WHETHER ANY-
ONE HAS DAMAGED THE SECURITY OF THE STATE OR HAS GIVEN
OUT INFORMATION DAMAGING TO THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY
AND "WE WILL HAVE THE COURAGE AND HONESTY TO APPLY THE
APPROPRIATE LAW."

4. ON THE OTHER HAND HE SAID THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS COMING
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FROM A PRIVATE CITIZEN ARE NOT MADE BY THE OFFICIAL

SECURITY AGENCIES OF HIS OWN COUNTRY; THEREFORE, HE
ADDED, "WE MUST TAKE A SUFFICIENTLY BALANCED VIEW SO AS
TO ACT WITH COMPLETE JUSTICE AND AT THE SAME TIME WITH
TOTAL VIGOR WHEN THE INFORMATION AND THE TRUTH OF THESE
ACTS SO REQUIRE."

5. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETELY
INDEPENDENT OF SUCH AGENCIES AS THE CIA. HE CONCLUDED,
"WE CAN HAVE SOME CONTACT WITH ANY EMBASSY ABOUT
THOSE EXTERNAL MATTERS THAT CAN AFFECT THE INTERNAL
SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY AS FOR EXAMPLE DRUG TRAFFICKING
AND OTHER MATTERS."
BREWSTER

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